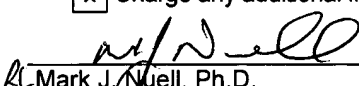




TFW

| AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER | | | | Docket No. 0032-0254P | |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| Application No. 09/530,013-Conf. #7256 | | Filing Date April 24, 2000 | | Examiner R. J. Gitomer | |
| | | | | Art Unit 1655 | |
| Applicant(s): Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al. | | | | | |
| Invention: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE DEGRADATION OF BRAIN NATRIURETIC PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING THE USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR COATED WITH SILICONE OR PLASTICS | | | | | |
| MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 | | | | | |
| Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application. | | | | | |
| The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below. | | | | | |
| CLAIMS AS AMENDED | | | | | |
| | Claims Remaining After Amendment | Highest Number Previously Paid | Number Extra Claims Present | Rate | |
| Total Claims | 12 | - 20 = | | x | |
| Independent Claims | 4 | - 4 = | | x | |
| Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | |
| Other fee (please specify): | | | | | |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT: | | | | | 0.00 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Entity <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for this amendment. | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed. | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached. | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. <u>02-2448</u> as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed. | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Credit any overpayment. | | | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17. | | | | | |
|  Mark J. Nuell, Ph.D. Attorney/Reg. No.: 36,623 | | | | Dated: <u>November 17, 2005</u> | |
| BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP 8110 Gatehouse Road Suite 100 East P.O. Box 747 Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747 (703) 205-8043 | | | | | |



Docket No.: 0032-0254P
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hiroyuki SHIMIZU et al.

Application No.: 09/530,013

Confirmation No.: 7256

Filed: April 24, 2000

Art Unit: 1655

For: METHOD FOR INHIBITING THE
DEGRADATION OF BRAIN NATRIURETIC
PEPTIDES IN A SPECIMEN COMPRISING
THE USE OF CONTAINERS MADE OF OR
COATED WITH SILICONE OR PLASTICS

Examiner: Ralph GITOMER

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated September 22, 2005, the following amendments and Remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

This response includes:

Amended Claim Set; and
Remarks.